

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02682 090836Z

21

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00 PM-04

/064 W

----- 124026

R 090703Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7921

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 2682

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EMIN, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN URANIUM POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: GOA URANIUM DEVELOPMENT POLICY OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION WERE ANNOUNCED AT THE RANGER INQUIRY. PRINCIPAL OPTIONS ARE: (1) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL MARKETING BOARD; (2) SEQUENTIAL ENTRY OF PRODUCERS INTO THE MARKET; (3) URANIUM SALES ALLOCATION BY THE GOA AMONG ALL POTENTIAL PRODUCERS ON A PRO RATA BASIS; AND (4) MINIMUM GOA INTERVENTION IN MARKETING.

2. GOA WILL NOT MAKE FINAL POLICY DECISIONS UNTIL COMPLETION OF THE RANGER INQUIRY. GOA OPTIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RANGER AND THE OVERALL MARKETING OF URANIUM WILL BE KEPT OPEN. END SUMMARY.

3. J.T. LARKIN, FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, URANIUM AND ELECTRICITY DIVISION, DEPT OF NATIONAL RESOURCES, OUTLINED
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GOA URANIUM DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS BEFORE THE RANGER

ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY ON APRIL 8. JUSTICE FOX,
CHAIRMAN OF THE RANGER INQUIRY, HAD SUSPENDED HEARINGS
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS GOA URANIUM POLICY WAS MADE PUBLIC.

4. A CENTRAL MARKETING BOARD COULD CONCEIVABLE
MONITOR MOST URANIUM DEVELOPMENT POLICIES CURRENTLY
UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE GOA. THE BOARD COULD:
(A) MONITOR OVERALL GOA SALES POLICIES; (B) INSURE
ADEQUATE PRICE FOR AUSTRALIAN URANIUM; (C) CONTROL
ENTRY OF PRODUCERS INTO THE MARKET; AND (D) ASSIGN
SALES ALLOCATIONS ON A PRO RATA BASIS.

5. NEGOTIATION OF URANIUM SALES WILL BE BETWEEN
PRODUCERS AND BUYERS. HOWEVER, GOA WILL SEEK BI-
LATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF IMPORTING
COUNTRIES TO INSURE THAT INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS
ARE UPHELD IN COUNTRIES IMPORTING AUSTRALIAN URANIUM.

6. GOA WILL INTERVENE IN URANIUM EXPORTING FROM
AUSTRALIA TO INSURE THAT: URANIUM WILL BE USED
FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES; IAEA STANDARDS ARE ADHERED TO
AND IN ABSENCE OF IAEA STANDARDS, GOA WILL APPLY
OTHER SAFEGUARDS; AND IMPORTERS OF AUSTRALIAN URANIUM
ARE PRECLUDED FROM RE-EXPORT OR CONSIGNMENT OF URANIUM
TO ANOTHER COUNTRY WITHOUT GOA CONSENT.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE PARA (1)(4) GOA URANIUM
DEVELOPMENT POLICY OPTIONS CURRENTLY UNDER CON-
SIDERATION SEEM TO IMPLY SUBSTANTIAL GOVERNMENT
INTERVENTION AT LEAST IN THE URANIUM SECTOR.

8. EMBOFF RAISED THE ISSUE OF INCREASED GOA INTER-
VENTION IN URANIUM WITH GOA OFFICIALS. EMBOFF WAS
TOLD THAT THESE OPTIONS WERE ONLY POSSIBLE ACTIONS,
AND THAT NOT ALL OPTIONS WERE LIKELY TO BECOME GOA
POLICY.

9. APPARENTLY GOA URANIUM POLICY AND POSSIBLY
MINERALS POLICY AS A WHOLE, ARE STILL THE SUBJECT
OF SOME DEBATE WITHIN THE GOA. TREASURY AND NATIONAL
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RESOURCES APPEAR TO BE THE PRINCIPAL ADVERSARIES.
END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, URANIUM, SALES, IMPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER02682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760134-0811
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760479/aaaacpoh.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN URANIUM POLICY DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: EGEN, EMIN, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006